

PLM-11

DECISION



THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

FILE: B-192440

DATE: August 8, 1979

MATTER OF: Ms. Georgie M. Bond - Relocation -

[Request for Reimbursement of Househunting trip Expenses]

DIGEST: Employee transferred to new duty station, who made a househunting trip prior to issuance of written authorization for the trip and the transfer, may now be reimbursed expenses since evidence has been presented to show that she was verbally authorized the trip before it was taken by a responsible official with authority to authorize the trip.

22G 20554

Ms. Elizabeth A. Allen, Chief, Accounting Section, Southwest Region, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, Dallas, Texas, requests reconsideration of our decision B-192440, September 29, 1978, denying reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$182.28 incurred by Ms. Georgie M. Bond on a househunting trip incident to an official change of station. Based upon new evidence that Ms. Bond was verbally authorized the trip by a responsible official prior to the issuance of the official written authorization and before she incurred any househunting expenses, these expenses may be reimbursed.

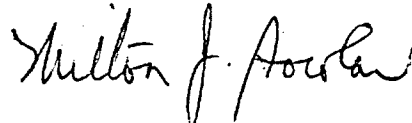
The original submission indicates that after accepting a position at a new duty station, Ms. Bond, an employee of the Internal Revenue Service, made a househunting trip prior to issuance of official authorization for the trip and transfer. Reimbursement was denied previously since there was no indication on the voucher or any other information of record to show that she was verbally authorized by an appropriate official to make the househunting trip at the time she did.

In the request for reconsideration, we are informed that Mr. R. Rhodes, Chief, Office Branch, Dallas, a responsible official designated to make arrangements for Ms. Bond's move from Austin to Dallas, Texas, gave her verbal authorization before she incurred any househunting expenses. This verbal authorization is sufficient to allow payment of the househunting trip expenses, notwithstanding the fact that no prior written authorization was issued. See B-185511, March 3, 1976, and decisions cited therein.

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B-192440

Accordingly, based upon the additional information now in the record before us, the employee may be reimbursed the househunting trip expenses. The voucher originally submitted in this matter is being returned for payment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Milton J. Fowler".

For the Comptroller General
of the United States